



rivers&trails

National
Park
Service



rivers, trails, and conservation assistance program

MEDIO CREEK RANCH

Project Goal

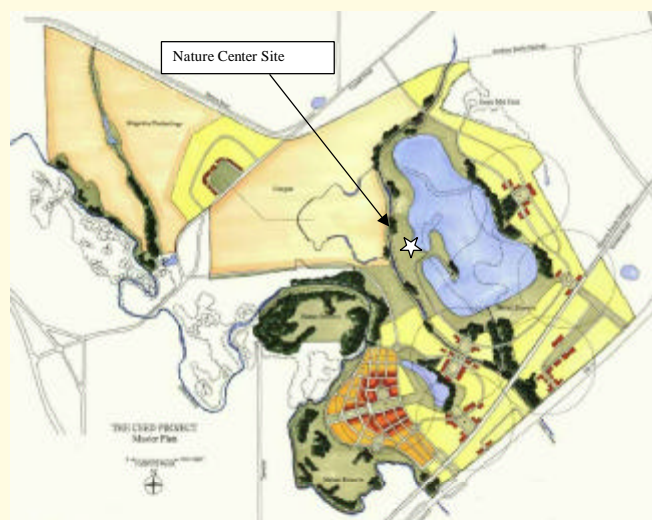
Design and construct a major commercial/residential/educational sustainable development including conservation elements such as a nature center, habitat buffering and management, outdoor recreational opportunities, and water resources management.

Background

Medio Creek Ranch is a 600-acre property owned by Bexar Met Water District of San Antonio. Bexar Met acquired the property several years ago as a site for a state of the art ultra-filtration water treatment plant. This plant went into operation in December of 1999. Recognizing their role in conservation leadership and education, Bexar Met created a unique new role for a Texas water utility, and dedicated the unused portion of the property to sustainable development. Next Bexar Met sought partners for their effort -- surrounding landowners, the Texas A&M University System, Alamo Community College District, United Water Services, Inc., The Corporation for Education and Economic Development, The Audubon Society, Southwest Independent School District, and other local organizations are partnering to open the first nature center in San Antonio on the site, even as a leading architectural firm, 3D/International, completes a Conceptual Master Plan for the entire project. This unique public-private partnership will create extensive new housing and employment opportunities in an historically underserved area of San Antonio, even as it provides outstanding outdoor experiences, learning, and recreation for the entire community. Taking this effort an additional step, Bexar Met and

RTCA have initiated a best practices effort for landowners all along the lower Medina River watershed, and will identify further conservation opportunities through this process.

Concept Master Plan Rendering



National Park Service Role

RTCA provides planning facilitation and technical support to the process. RTCA led the initial stakeholders through visioning and statement of principles to include extensive habitat and open space protection, non-point source water pollution mitigation, maximum energy and water efficiency in buildings, and demonstration of water reuse and gray water remediation technologies. Next RTCA facilitated the planning and construction of two demonstration projects: an interpretive overlook and a trail, which led to the planning of a nature center to act as the headquarters and focal point of the educational and conservation efforts on the property. In coming years RTCA will facilitate

continued

MEDIO CREEK RANCH

and provide expertise for the planning and construction of an extensive multi-use trails network, protection and expansion of riparian habitats, and preparation of curricula for all grade levels.

Project Results to Date

- Planning and construction of Interpretive Overlook and Nature Trail .
- Nature Center Implementation Plan .
- Design/Construction Principles for entire project.

Project Partners

- Bexar Met Water District - Landowner and project initiator.
- Corporation for Education and Economic Development - Landowner and Developer.
- Texas A&M University System - Planning partner.
- Alamo Community College District - Planning partner/curriculum development.
- Audubon Society - Planning partner.
- Bexar Land Trust - Planning partner.
- Southwest Independent School District - Planning partner/curriculum development.
- United Water Systems, Inc. - Planning partner and water treatment facility operator.

Contacts

Chuck Ahrens
Bexar Met Water District
2047 W. Malone
San Antonio, TX 78225
Ph: 210-357-5710
Fax: 210-354-6593

Steve Bonner
National Park Service – Rivers & Trails
2.308 Goldsmith Hall
School of Architecture
University of Texas
Austin, TX 78712
Ph: 210-387-8628
Email: steve_bonner@nps.gov

2968 Rodeo Park Drive, West
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, NM 87501-0728



www.ncrc.nps.gov/rtca
Ph: 505-988-6090
Fx: 505-988-6097